THORSday, August 6, 2020

Dear Viking Students, Parents, and Staffulty:

I hope this email finds you healthy and enjoying your last weeks of summer. With Poudre School District’s (PSD) surprise announcement Tuesday, 8/4 that school will open in phase 1 fully online rather than phase 3 with half days, we’ve been working hard to change our start of the year procedures and schedules. Thank you for your patience. The guidance we receive from the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment and PSD changes daily and we want to use the most complete and updated information before making decisions and communicating directions. Unfortunately, PSD is not allowing us to do an on-campus, in-person Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) 6th Grade Orientation before the first day or Parent Back-to-School Night the first two weeks like we do in a normal year. We’re exploring virtual options. Our goal is to get students safely back on campus as soon and often as possible. We’ll watch surrounding school districts from Cheyenne to Greeley over the next month as all of them except Thompson are opening in person to various degrees. Here’s Lesher’s plan as of today:

**Monday, 8/10 – Friday, 8/14** our teachers and staff will finalize our Schoolwide Remote Learning Schedule for students and distribute it Monday, 8/17 – Wednesday, 8/19 during grade-level check-in days.

**Wednesday, 8/12, 8 AM – 3 PM: New Student ONLINE REGISTRATION (OLR) By Appointment**
Parents will be able to upload proof of address, birth verification, immunizations, custody paperwork and transcripts, etc. For additional information click here: Online Registration.

**Monday, 8/17 – Wednesday, 8/19, 8 AM – 3:30 PM: Updated Check-In/Schedule and Laptop Pick-up by Student Last Name – Lesher’s Main Gym (Viking Arena)**
Checkout days and time slots are assigned to limit the number of students in the building at any one time. Please make these times work as county and state health guidelines limit what we can do. If you’re not comfortable having your child enter the building, contact your grade level administrator. He/she will set a time Thursday, 8/20 or Friday, 8/21 for curbside pickup.

**8th Grade Monday, 8/17**
8th Grade Asst. Principal/Athletic Director Waren Morrow (wmorrow@psdschools.org, 472-3802)

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**7th Grade Tuesday, 8/18**
7th Grade Dean Lisa Crossland (lcrossla@psdschools.org, 472-3850)

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6th Grade Wednesday, 8/19
6th Grade Asst. Principal/Assess. Coord. Janice Martinez (janicem@psdschools.org, 472-3854)

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✓ No one with COVID symptoms or a fever may enter the building.
✓ Staff and students must wear mask/face covering.
✓ Hand sanitizer will be available in the building.
✓ Stay at least 6-ft apart.
✓ No congregating inside the building, you have 20 minutes to complete this process.
✓ 6th grade students please enter the building via our west main entrance (Stover St.). You may bring a parent/guardian and can exit the nearest door when finished.
✓ 7th and 8th grade students please have your parent/guardian(s) drop you off at our west main entrance (Stover St.) and pull around back for pick up at our east pick up/drop off lane (Ellis St.) between shade structure/shed and Prospect Road. Please pull forward.
✓ Students will pick up their school laptop and charger at check-in day. On Wednesday, 8/12, student passwords will be reset to the district default password; this password will be included with your computer when you pick it up and you can change it at any time. Information about a computer contract video will also be included with your computer. This video will review the rules for using a PSD computer at school and at home. If you did not return your computer to Lesher at the end of May or to PSD over the summer, you need to return your computer and charger to Lesher on check-in day. There are important updates that need to be managed by our IT department. Mrs. Flippen (librarian) will contact you when your computer is ready and arrange for pick up at Lesher. If transportation is an issue, home delivery can be worked out.
✓ School pictures will be scheduled when we return to campus.

**STEP 1** - Pick-up schedule, laptop/charger, supplies/backpack, student planner and info. packet in main gym. Student schedules will be available in StudentVUE Thursday, 8/20.

**STEP 2** - Pick-up instruments (if needed) on the stage (Viking Performing Arts Center).

**STEP 3** - Exit across the patio (7th and 8th graders) to east parent pick up/drop off area (Ellis St.) the shade structure/shed and Prospect Road. Please pull forward. 6th graders exit with your parent any convenient door.

**STEP 4: AT HOME WITH PARENTS** login to ParentVUE to update personal info. in Synergy (https://www.psdschools.org/ParentVUE).

**STEP 5: AT HOME WITH PARENTS** pay 2020-21 phase 1 fully remote fees online: student planner ($6) and optional purchases/donations (i.e. $35 Yearbook early bird purchase through 11/1, suggested $40 Viking Volunteers donation per family.). Lesher yearbook sales link: http://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A00939540. If classes resume in phases 2 – 4 2nd quarter and/or 2nd semester fees for tech. ed. supplies ($15) and art ($10) will be collected. Payments can made through SchoolPay: https://psdschools.schoolpay.com/ with a credit card or with Office Manager Jeannie Mitchell (jeanniem@psdschools.org, 472-3803). 2020-21 curricular and athletic fees are waived for Free and Reduced Lunch eligible if the family has been PSD approved AND the Waiver Request has been submitted.
Families MUST reapply at the beginning of each school year. If approved the previous year, families have a 30-day grace period to reapply for approval: https://www.psdschools.org/programs-services/school-meals/free-and-reduced-meals.

**PSD Updates**

Parents please log into ParentVUE to let PSD know if your student has access to a device (Windows desktop or laptop, Apple Mac desktop or MacBook, Chromebook) for remote learning and reliable internet in your residence (cell phone internet access does not count).

**PSD Virtual** is a yearlong 100% online option for 2020-21 and will not shift among the district’s educational phases, which are dependent on public health orders. Watch this video to learn more about PSD Virtual. The deadline to enroll in PSD Virtual is Saturday, 8/8 and requires a one-year commitment. Submit your "PSD Virtual Intent to Enroll" through ParentVUE. For information about PSDV, answers to frequently asked questions, how to unenroll from PSDV and more, visit the PSD Virtual website. Email questions to psdvinfo@psdschools.org. Enrolled PSDV students pick up their laptops at their home schools. Lesher is projected to have about 820 students this year and about 80 have submitted an intent to enroll with PSD Virtual.

**Athletics.** Following CHSAA’s Tuesday, 8/4 announcement of its 2020-21 interscholastic athletics and activities calendar, high school boys golf, girls softball, and boys and girls cross country and tennis have started in PSD, however, PSD has paused middle school athletics at this time with the goal of hopefully offering a modified season for all 10 sports in early January.

**Frequently Asked Questions.** For answers about the shift to remote education, including the rationale for the decision, review 2020-21 school year FAQs and PSD’s comprehensive 30-page Together Again: https://www.psdschools.org/sites/default/files/PSD/communications/2020-21%20School%20Year%20Plans/PSD_Together_Again.pdf.

Lastly, **Lesher’s Schoolwide Remote Learning Schedule** for students will be shared at grade-level check-in days Monday, 8/17 – Wednesday, 8/19. Lesher is transitioning to a new newsletter service this year and rolling out a more modernized website (https://les.psdschools.org/). Do check Lesher’s website, Twitter feed (@Lesher_MS) and School Messenger voice messages and emails for updates. Please stay tuned and be patient with us. And remember, we’re all about our Lesher F-A-M-I-L-Y… Forget About Me I Love You!

Shine on,

**T. DODD**

Tom Dodd, PhD
Principal

“Shells sink, dreams float. Life’s good on our boat.” — Jimmy Buffett